



PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

Fort Benning, GA

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FORT BENNING, GA – The Fort Benning Commanding General has placed two businesses off limits to service members in the Columbus area, by authority of the Armed Forces Disciplinary Control Board.

Under Army Regulation 190-24, the Armed Forces Disciplinary Control Board, allows commanders to put any establishment off limits which may adversely affect Soldiers and their families or compromise good discipline, health, morale, safety and welfare of service members. Off Limits actions also are intended to prevent service members from being exposed to or victimized by crime-conducive conditions.

The two companies, Capital Consortium Group, Inc. and 3 Hebrew Boys, L.L.C., are registered in South Carolina and are under investigation by federal and state authorities for possibly targeting Soldiers and others in the Southeast region with an investment scheme that may violate law. The owners or representatives of the companies conduct seminars during which they promise potential investors that if they invest or pay a monetary fee, they will receive guaranteed 10% monthly interest or have mortgages, auto loans, or other debts paid by the companies. The companies tell potential investors that they invest in foreign exchange markets and realize tremendous profits based upon daily exchange rate fluctuations. According to state regulators in South Carolina, where the businesses are licensed, the companies operated primarily in North Carolina, near Fort Bragg, targeting Soldiers and some civilian organizations, including church congregations. Recently, however, Fort Benning officials learned that representatives of the company have been operating on post or in the local community and have enticed Fort Benning Soldiers to invest in the company, which, according to South Carolina officials, has never invested in foreign exchange markets and rarely makes more than a few of the promised payments to investors.

Officials fear this investment is a classic "Ponzi" scheme. In a Ponzi scheme, the perpetrator solicits money from you as an "investment," promising big payoffs in the future, but all he really does is use your "investment" to pay back the people from whom he took money earlier in the scheme. For more information on Ponzi schemes, individuals should visit www.ftc.gov/bcp/online/edcams/pyramid/index.html.

These companies may have sought investors at other installation or in the local civilian community, so officials are asking that this advisory be given maximum dissemination. Soldiers who have invested with these companies should contact their Staff Judge Advocate office immediately at 706-545-3285, so they can be advised of their rights. Local civilians who invested should contact their attorney or the Georgia Attorney General's office for more information.

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